

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

SAJ-01 SCS-03 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 PM-04 H-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MIL PO

SUBJ: PPD CLASH WITH COMMUNISTS

REF: OPORTO 262

1. PPD RALLY LAST NIGHT IN DOWNTOWN OPORTO ENDED IN BLOODY LATE HOUR ENCOUNTER WITH FUR/SUV ELEMENTS IN FRONT OF ARTILLERY REGIMENT (RASP) QUARTERS CONTROLLED BY SUV. RALLY INITIALLY DREW OVER 10,000 INCLUDING A FEW WAVING PPM (MONARCHIST PARTY) FLAGS, TO DEMONSTRATE IN SUPPORT OF VI GOVERNMENT; PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO AND NORTHERN REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDER BG VELOSO.

2. RALLY ENDED WITH UNSCHEDULED MARCH (SEE REFTEL) FIRST TO CICAP QUARTERS WHERE MILITARY UNITS LOYAL TO VELOSO ALLOWED CROWD TO WAVE PPD FLAGS FROM BARRACKS WALLS; CHEER SUPPORT WITH CRIES OF VICTORY AND MINGLE IN FRIENDLY FASHION. EMBOLDENED BY THIS RECEPTION, PPD SOUND TRUCKS ASKED CROWD HOW MANY WANTED TO MARCH ON RASP QUARTERS

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ACROSS THE RIVER, SOME 5,000 ANSWERED THE CALL.

3. AT LONG NARROW BRIDGE OVER RIVER, MARCHERS PROCEEDED ACROSS IN SMALL GROUPS. FIRST PPD ELEMENTS ENCOUNTERED SEVERAL HUNDRED YOUNG LEFTISTS ARMED WITH CLUBS WHO EASILY DROVE MIDDLE-CLASS, MIDDLE-AGED PPD SUPPORTERS AWAY FROM RASP DRIVEWAY INTO PARK ACROSS THE STREET. I COUNTED AT LEAST 20 INJURED INCLUDING SEVERAL WOMEN IN INITIAL CLASH. AS MORE SUPPORTERS POURED OFF BRIDGE A FEW SUV SOLDIERS TRIED TO KEEP TWO GROUPS SEPARATE BUT PRESSURE FROM PPD MARCHERS FORCED SUV AND CIVILIAN LEFTISTS TO RETREAT UP DRIVE WHERE THEY GATHERED BEHIND PARTLY CONSTRUCTED BARRICADE AND ON BATTLEMENT WALLS ABOVE. SEVERAL LEFTISTS AND SUVs WERE BLOODIED IN THE PROCESS.

4. ROCK THROWING CONTEST ENSUED UNTIL SUV AND LEFTISTS BEGAN RESPONDING EVERY FEW MINUTES WITH TEAR-GAS AND CONCUSSION GRENADES. OCCASIONAL SHOTS WERE HEARD. NEWS REPORTS INDICATE AREA WAS FINALLY CALMED AT 3AM FOLLOWING ARRIVAL OF LOCAL MILITARY CONTINGENT FROM CAVALRY REGIMENT LOYAL TO VELOSO WHO ANNOUNCED THEY WOULD NOT FIRE. A TANK (M-47) AND SEVERAL ARMORED CARS ALSO REPORTEDLY APPEARED. BOTH EQUIPMENT AND SOLDIERS WERE GONE BY 8AM. LATEST INFORMATION FROM AREA HOSPITALS INDICATES OVER 80 WERE INJURED WITH AT LEAST FOUR BY GUNSHOTS.

5. COMMENT - COURAGE OF PPD SUPPORTERS IN CONTINUING TO COME ACROSS LONG BRIDGE IN SMALL GROUPS IN THE FACE OF MILITANT, ARMED, ORGANIZED YOUNG LEFTISTS WAS IMPRESSIVE. PPD HAS PROVED ITS DEMOCRATIC CREDENTIALS IN BLOOD. SUCH AN ENCOUNTER WAS UNFORTUNATELY INEVITABLE. SOCIALISTS HAVE SCHEDULED RALLY IN OPORTO TOMORROW NIGHT. THEY WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO MATCH PPD ACTIONS WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ENHANCE POLITICAL IMAGE OF PPD IN THE NORTH. CLASH HAS ALSO POLORIZED BOTH SIDES FURTHER. IT WILL NOW TAKE MORE THAN A FEW THOUSAND UNARMED CIVILIANS TO DISLODGE SUV/FUR ELEMENTS BARRICADED BEHIND EASILY-DEFENDED RASP POSITION.

PENNER

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